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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE

INFO. 1 April 1947

SUBJECT Economic Information: Soviet Smuggling of Tin and
Wolfram

DIST. 21 May 1947

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ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. At present a considerable quantity of tin is being smuggled from Kiangsi (Kwangsi?) Province to Canton and sold to two purchasers, the principal one being the USSR. (The other purchaser was not stated.) It was reported that a European in the consular service at Canton has been acting for the Soviets in the procurement of this tin.
2. The tin is smuggled from Canton to Macao where, in the opinion of one business man, the only way it could be loaded was by small craft transporting it to larger ships outside the territorial waters.
3. It is believed that a considerable amount of wolfram ore is also being shipped out of Canton by the same routes.
4. It was learned from a Chinese who is considering participating in the operation of a Japanese wolfram processing plant, which was purchased from the alien property administration in Shanghai and which is being moved to Hongkong, that the Soviet Union has placed open orders for tungsten oxide at a price well above the market price and above the preliminary prices offered by several American firms.

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